

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00421 241457Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 NSC-05 USIA-06 OPR-02

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 INR-07 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8848

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PINR EI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DUBLIN LORD MAYOR

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DUBLIN LORD MAYOR JIM MITCHELL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE IRISH TOURIST BOARD AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THEY WILL ARRIVE AT NEW YORK (JFK) 1815 MARCH 1 VIA LL 203 FROM REYKJAVIK, WHERE THEY WILL HAVE SPENT FOUR DAYS. IN NEW YORK THEY WILL STAY AT THE YALE CLUB AS MY GUESTS. THEY ARRIVE WASHINGTON (NATIONAL) VIA NA 421 ON MARCH 2 AT 1308. IN WASHINGTON THEY WILL STAY AT THE EMBASSY ROW HOTEL. WASHINGTON EVENTS SO FAR SCHEDULED INCLUDE A LUCHEON HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR MOLLOY, SIGHTSEEING, AND A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE EARLY A.M. MARCH 3. ON MARCH 4 THEY RETURN TO NEW YORK. MARCH 6-8 TO BOSTON, VISITING RELATIVES. MARCH 8-10 TO HOUSTON, VISITING RELATIVES. MARCH 10 ARRIVE JFK, NEW YORK, 1631 VIA DL 224. DEPART SAME DAY 2030 VIA IN 104 FOR IRELAND.

2. THE LORD MAYOR HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY SERVICES AND SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD HANDS OF THE IRISH EMBASSY. HOWEVER, I WOULD HOPE THAT EUR/NE COULD GIVE HIM SOME ATTENTION IF THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES. HIS FULL SCHEDULE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM THE IRISH EMBASSY. HE IS A GOOD
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00421 241457Z

FRIEND OF THE EMBASSY, AND ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING YOUNG POLITICIANS IN IRELAND. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. BIOGRAPHY: BORN DUBLIN OCTOBER 19, 1946. EDUCATION: IRISH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS, TRINITY COLLEGE (STUDIED COMPUTER SCIENCE, BUT NO DEGREE). HE WAS THE SEVENTH OF A FAMILY OF TEN, OF MODEST MEANS,

AND EARLY WENT TO WORK FOR THE GUINNESS BREWERY, EVENTUALLY REACHING THE JUNIOR EXECUTIVE LEVEL. HIS EDUCATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN NIGHT SCHOOL. HE JOINED THE FINE GAEIL PARTY EARLY, AND RAN FOR A SEAT IN THE PARLIAMENT (DAIL) IN 1970 AND 1974 BYELECTIONS, LOSING BOTH TIMES. ELECTED TO THE DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL IN 1974, HE BECAME THE YOUNGEST LORD MAYOR IN DUBLIN'S HISTORY IN 1976. WITH THE RETIREMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DECLAN COSTELLO, MITCHELL IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO BE ELECTED TO THE DAIL IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. ALTHOUGH VERY MUCH IN THE "LIBERAL" WING OF FINE GAEIL, HE IS A LOYAL PARTY MAN AND DOES NOT MAKE WAVES. LIKE MOST IRISH POLITICIANS, HE IS A QUICK THINKER AND ARTICULATE IN CONVERSATION ON MANY SUBJECTS, THOUGH NOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD PUBLIC SPEAKER. HE HAS BEEN AN ENERGETIC LORD MAYOR, AND MORE POLITICAL THAN MOST (IT IS A CEREMONIAL POSITION). HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE PATRICIA IS QUIET AND UNAGGRESSIVE, BUT WITH STRONG VIEWS. JIM MITCHELL SEEMS TO BE THE FAVORITE YOUNG POLITICIAN OF THE FINE GAEIL HIERARCHY, AND WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL GO FAR IN IRISH POLITICS. CURLEY

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